

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
STR-04 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 OES-06 INT-05 ACDA-10
/121 W

-----081023Z 119720 /15

P R 090940Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6824

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 5110

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: JA, SU, PFOR, PBOR

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS SONODA-KOSYGIN MEETING

SUMMARY: AFTER COOLING HIS HEELS FOR TWO DAYS, CHIEF
CABINET SECRETARY SONODA FINALLY MET WITH PREMIER KOSYGIN
APRIL 7. HE EMERGED WITH SOVIET AGREEMENT TO RESUME
SUSPENDED FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS, BUT REPORTEDLY AT PRICE
OF RECOGNIZING SOVIET FISHING BOUNDARIES AROUND DISPUTED
NORZVN ISLANDS. END SUMMARY.

1. TOKYO PRESS DEVOTED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO APRIL 7
MEETING BETWEEN CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA AND SOVIET
PREMIER KOSYGIN WHICH RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO RESUME
SUSPENDED JAPANESE-SOVIET FISHERIES TALKS. AGRICULTURE-
FORESTRY MINISTER SUZUKI, WHO HAD ALREADY FLOWN TO MOSCOW,
WAS EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET COUNTER-
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PART ISHKOV TODAY.

2. ACCORDING TO KYODO PRESS ACCOUNT, SONODA PRESENTED
SOVIETS WITH LETTER FROM PM FUKUDA CALLING FOR RESUMP-
TION OF FISHERIS TALKS IN SPIRIT OF "FRIENDSHIP AND
GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOVIET UNION." FOR
HIS PART, KOSYGIN RESPONDED WITH POINTED STATEMENT

THAT RESULTS OF MEETING WOULD DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON JAPANESE ATTITUDES -- "WE HOPE MR. SONODA AND OTHER JAPANESE OFFICIALS HAVE COME TO MOSCOW WITH GOODWILL." KOSYGIN THEN MADE STRONG PITCH FOR LONG-TERM JAPANESE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, AND CRITICIZED JAPANESE ACTIONS DURING MIG-25 INCIDENT. HE SAID IT WAS WRONG FOR ONE COUNTRY TO REVEAL ANOTHER'S ADVANCED WEAPONRY TO A THIRD COUNTRY.

3. ALTHOUGH SONODA SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD JAPANESE REPORTERS THAT HIS TALKS WITH KOSYGIN DID NOT TOUCH UPON NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE, APRIL 8 ASAHI ARTICLE QUOTED ADMISSION OF UNIDENTIFIED "JAPANESE GOVERNMENT LEADER" THAT SONODA HAD IN FACT MADE CONCESSION OF RECOGNIZING SOVIET DEMARCATION LINE AROUND DISPUTED FOUR ISLANDS IN ORDER TO GAIN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO RESUME FISHING TALKS. ACCORDING ASAHI SOURCE, GOJ WOULD RECOGNIZE SOVIET LINE AS "BOUNDARY WHICH APPLIES ONLY TO FISHING AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BILATERAL TERRITORIAL ISSUE." ASAHI AND OTHER PAPERS POINTED OUT THAT, HOWEVER DIPLOMATICALLY EXPLAINED BY GOJ, APPARENT CONCESSION BY SONODA WOULD REPRESENT WEAKENING IN JAPANESE CLAIM TO SOVIET-HELD ISLANDS.

4. GOJ LEADERS HAVE QUICKLY DENIED WH ANY SUCH TERRITORIAL CONCESSION HAD BEEN MADE OR WERE CONTEMPLATED. NIHON KEIZAI REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING APPARENT GRILLING BY FELLOW CABINET MEMBERS ON SUBJECT AT APRIL 8 CABINET MEETING, FUMIO HATOYAMA AND ACTING CABINET UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY FUJITA CHARACTERIZED ASAHI REPORT AS "REGRETTABLE" AND "A MISUNDERSTANDING." PM FUKUDA ASSERTED TO REPORTERS: "THE TERRITORIAL PROBLEM WAS NOT TAKEN UP AT THE SONODA-KOSYGIN TALKS. THEY TALKED ABOUT FISH, NOT TERRITORY." HE TERMED "IRRESPONSIBLE" REPORTS THAT JAPAN HAD MADE CONCESSION.

5. FONOFF CONTACTS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT SO FAR. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO05110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-0022
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770471/aaaacjpx.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa55bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2848457
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS SONODA-KOSYGIN MEETING SUMMARY: AFTER COOLING HIS HEELS FOR TWO DAYS, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA FINALLY MET WITH PREMIER
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, JA, US, UR, (KOSYGIN), (SONODA)
To: STATE MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa55bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009